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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

INFORMATION REPORT

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CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBJECT Building Program for Drifters and Seiners

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1. The 1949 building program for drifters and seiners was allegedly as follows: 25X1

Shipyard

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Thaelmann-Yard Brandenburg/Havel

Nationalized Shipyard Rossau/Elbe -
(M 52/E 17)Nationalized Shipyard Boizenburg/
Elbe (M 54/S 93)

Nationalized Shipyard Stralsund -

The construction of the drifters had priority over the seiners. Brought parts, wrought coupling flanges for the screw shafts and bevel wheels are bottlenecks in the construction program. The ships built in Boizenburg are being finished in the Peene-Yard in Wolgast, and partly in Wismar.

2. The construction of drifters was started in Brandenburg/Havel in August 1949. The required material had not been provided for in the appropriate DMK plans but had to be delivered to the Brandenburg Yard from other yards, by order of the Soviets. The use of this shipyard for the drifter-building program was decreed to provide competition for the other shipyards. When, in October 1949, it became clear that the scheduled delivery dates would not be met, the three drifters which were being built in Brandenburg were transferred to Stralsund. Four drifters from Rossau also had to be taken to Stralsund. Since October 1949 the Soviet authorities in Karlshorst have exerted considerable pressure to have delivery schedules fulfilled at the yard in Stralsund but it has been impossible to meet the prescribed dates because of a lack of material. The hull plates, for example, had to be supplied by the Hargarten Yard, Rostock, before work could be started. Along with the transfer of the drifters to the seaside shipyards, 300 workmen from the Brandenburg yard, 500 from the Rossau yard, and 700 from the Boizenburg yard had to be placed at the disposal of the seaside shipyards. (2)

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3. The Brandenburg Thaelmann Yard is accommodated in Stralsund in the so-called "Ship Salvage" on the Daenholm. This "Ship Salvage" is engaged in repair work and employs 250 workmen. The work-force of the Thaelmann Yard there amounted to 618 workers in March 1950. (3)
4. Of the three drifters prescribed in the 1949 building program for the Brandenburg Thaelmann Yard, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The final assembly of these drifters built at the Thaelmann Yard is to take place in Volgast in 1950.

5. Building program for seiners in 1950 is as follows:

Thaelmann Yard Brandenburg	36 (3 of them from 1949)
State Yard Rothersee	15
Shipyard Schuetze and Aken	5
Shipyard Dolle in Dertben	4.

According to Soviet statements the Stralsund shipyard is in a position to build 100 drifters in 1950. (4)

- (1) [REDACTED] Comments.
[REDACTED]

- (2) It appears that the Soviets closely supervise the yards and also determine the rate of production. It may therefore be assumed that the drifters sent to the U.S.S.R. are reparation deliveries.
- (3) Presumably source means that a branch of the Thaelmann Yard has been established in Stralsund.
- (4) The report indicates that the inland shipyards are being used to supply the seaside shipyards with semi-finished products. Thus the same system is adopted as was used for the construction of sections of submarines and mine sweepers. In this manner the monthly output can be increased considerably. However, if the material required for these Soviet orders must be withdrawn from other yards, this will lead to a waste of time and the prescribed production quotas will not be fulfilled. The deliveries of material observed going from one yard to another are probably caused by initial difficulties which occur in any controlled economy. Because the number of skilled shipwrights available in the Soviet Zone of Germany is not adequate for such an ambitious building program it may be assumed that the S.D. will try to recruit them in the Western Zone of Germany with the help of the German Communist Party. Reports on such efforts have already been received. Considering the great number of unemployed shipyard workers such attempts are bound to be successful. It will continue to be difficult to procure those materials which can only be supplied by the Western Zone of Germany.

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